Sl. No	Name of the Ministry/Department	Facilities/Benefits given to Senior Citizens
9.	MCD, Delhi	MCD, Delhi, has opened a separate counter for senior citizens for submission of property tax.
10.	Miscellaneous	1. Telephone connection is given on priority to senior citizens of age 65 years and above by the Ministry of Communications. 2. On the request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the country to accord priority to cases involving older persons and ensure their expeditious disposal.

Demonstration by blind people

2132. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 300 blind people held a demonstration in the first week of December, 2003 at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) how Government propose to meet them; and

(d) by when the Disability Act is likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) As reported by the office of the Deputy Commissioner of police, New Delhi District, New Delhi around 125 visually handicapped persons held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar on 2.12.2003 under the Leadership of Shri S.K. Rungta of the National Federation of the Blind.

(b) The National Federation of the Blind submitted a list of demands to the Ministry which broadly covers the demand for amendment of the The persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995', recruitment and promotion of visually handicapped persons in various Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), protection of their interests while disinvesting PSUs, reservation of seats in educational institutions, opening of hostels for blind students in every State, housing loans from the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, allotment of land/ shops, rehabilitation of blind hawkers earning their livelihood at railway stations, etc.

(c) The demand charter has been referred for action to the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India and the Federation as been informed regarding this.

(d) The implementation of the PWD Act, 1995 requires a multi sectoral approach involving different Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State Governments, autonomous bodies, voluntary organizations and civil society. This is reviewed periodically in meetings of the Central Coordination Committee and Central Executive Committee and followed up with the concerned authorities.

Rag-pickers in civic services

2133. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide gloves, masks and rubber boots to all the rag-pickers helping in waste segregation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action proposed as welfare measures to help the rag-pickers in their civic services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, there is no such proposal.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment does not have any specific scheme for the welfare of rag-pickers. However, it is